

High Road to Safe Reopening: Building Skills Partnership

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

Building Skills Partnership is a statewide nonprofit that works to improve the quality of life of low-wage property service workers and their families by increasing their skills, access to education, and opportunities for career and community advancement. A key component of BSP's high road strategy is to leverage its labor-management partnership, which includes employers, property owners, workers, and union representatives, to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on California's economy while disproportionately impacting frontline workers and communities of color. Property service workers have been recognized as essential workers on the front lines of controlling the spread of COVID-19, yet little has been done to support this workforce. As the state moves towards a just and equitable recovery, this crisis presents an opportunity for both the janitorial and airport industries to create career mobility opportunities for janitors and airport workers through specialized training and professionalization. BSP has developed a 12-hour Infectious Disease Certification (IDC) that equips workers with skills and knowledge to protect themselves and the public through use of proper disinfection and cleaning techniques. This project proposes to scale the IDC, identify workforce development opportunities to safely reopen the state's economy, and create a crucial link between public health and environmental sustainability efforts.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Collaboration through sector-based Labor-Management Committees (LMCs) with janitorial and airport partners for program implementation and development strategies generated from stakeholder council.
- An equitable technology training solution that will scale infectious disease certification (IDC) and upskilling while allowing for distance-learning for workers throughout California.
- Implementation of workforce development training pivotal to safely reopen California, while addressing quality job creation and economic recovery.
- Expansion of IDC across 6 major markets: San Diego, Orange County, Los Angeles, Silicon Valley, East Bay, and Sacramento.
- Impact evaluation to assess consumer and tenant confidence to re-enter buildings and safety indicators for workers.

KEY PARTNERS

- Building Skills Partnership (BSP)
- SEIU-USWW
- Building Owners Management Association (BOMA-GLA)
- American Building Maintenance (ABM)
- DMS Facility Services
- G2 (Airport Contractor)
- EdTech Center @ World Education
- Google.org